

ANNUAL ECA ALUMNI PROJECT COMPETITION FY2012 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUMMARY

The State Departments' Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' (ECA) Office of Alumni Affairs (ECA/P/A) invites Alumni to submit proposals for the FY2012 ECA Alumni Project Competition. This annual competition, now in its ninth year, supports efforts to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other nations, and assists exchange program alumni to build on concepts and ideas they explored during their exchange program. **The deadline for submission of project proposals is January 20, 2012.**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must include the following:

- A. Completed project proposal form.
- B. Detailed budget with mandatory cost-sharing.
- C. Adherence to January 20, 2012 deadline.
- D. Please e-mail proposals for Embassy Skopje to Albion Abdullai at abdullaia@state.gov

PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A. Projects must support U.S. foreign policy objectives and fulfill the overarching ECA Alumni Program goal:

Projects must include the direct engagement of Embassy Officers. This may take many forms such as holding discussion groups with alumni, appearing on public panels with alumni, volunteering in an alumni-run project or attending an alumni-run event or program.

B. Projects should also support one or more of the following additional ECA Alumni Program goals:

- 1) To foster alumni implementation and sharing of concepts explored in their exchange programs;
- 2) To provide training that will improve ability of alumni to implement ideas;
- 3) To involve alumni in recruiting exchange participants, and/or promoting their exchange program, especially among nontraditional audiences; and,
- 4) To enable alumni to work collectively to share the benefits of their exchange experience with home country audiences and to "give back" to the program in which they participated.

C. Projects should involve the global State Alumni website.

All alumni involved in the project should register for the State Alumni website, <https://alumni.state.gov>. Alumni receiving program funds must share their experiences with the global community by posting articles/blogs about ongoing activities on <https://alumni.state.gov>

D. Project proposals should be detailed, demonstrating:

- 1) Clear goals,
- 2) Reliable Partner institutions,
- 3) Transparent evaluation process,
- 4) Valid post justification, and
- 5) Realistic timeline and project steps.

E. Project proposals must include a detailed budget, demonstrating:

- 1) Reasonable costs,
- 2) Featured cost-sharing, and that
- 3) Sustainability is achievable once funding has ceased.

PROJECT PROPOSAL FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted using the "FY2012 ECA Alumni Project Competition" proposal and budget forms, available upon request from Albion Abdullai, abdullaia@state.gov.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

Budget requests cannot exceed USD 20,000. All budgets must be submitted using the budget form (provided upon request).

A. Cost-sharing and/or in-kind support is mandatory. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of in-kind support from businesses, universities, NGOs, and other public-private partnership opportunities.

Cost-sharing can also include resources available through the Embassy Public Affairs Section, including the following:

- 1) Existing or donated space for events (i.e. American Corners).
- 2) Donated or borrowed equipment for one-time only events.
- 3) Use of American Fulbrighters, English Language Fellows, or other American visitors in the region to serve as speakers.

4) Use of alumni volunteers to assist in project mission (i.e. recruiting new exchange participants, mentoring youth).

B. Applicants should take advantage of the following resources from ECA's Office of Alumni Affairs:

- 1) Use of existing State Alumni website infrastructure to support new alumni websites/ communities. <https://alumni.state.gov/communities>
- 2) Use of existing ECA Alumni Archive for alumni database development. <http://alumniarchive.state.gov>

C. Funds may be used for any activity that furthers the goals of ECA's Office of Alumni Affairs described above.

Alumni Program funds CANNOT be used:

- 1) To cover representational costs, i.e. receptions.
- 2) To support individual research projects of alumni.
- 3) To pay salaries or administrative overhead for anyone working on the alumni project.
- 4) To pay for international travel outside Macedonia, including travel to/from the United States.
- 5) To pay for speakers traveling from the United States.

Alumni Program funds CAN be used:

- 1) To cover the reasonable cost of food if it is an integral part of the program.
- 2) To pay for national and regional travel within post's country and region.
- 3) For regional or in-country speakers.
- 4) Other activities that further the goals of post's Alumni Outreach Strategy.

SUSTAINABILITY AND STRATEGY BUILDING

Project proposals lacking a clear progression toward sustainability will be deemed less competitive. As alumni associations expand outreach efforts, they should work toward greater self-reliance. Requests for new activities, however, can be considered for full funding.

Project proposals focused on the areas below will be deemed more competitive:

- English language;
- Youth leadership;
- Public/private partnerships;
- Democracy and human rights;
- Economic opportunity, prosperity, and entrepreneurship;
- Women's empowerment;
- Promoting a better environment;
- Food security;

- Global health; and,
- Outreach to marginalized communities.

Sustainable Project Ideas:

ECA welcomes competitive and sustainable project proposals. Support for alumni associations, database development, connecting alumni with NGO partners, utilizing alumni to engage youth, and alumni mentoring programs are just a few examples of competitive and sustainable project ideas. More ideas can be found in:

- 1) The news section of State Alumni's Global Community,
<https://alumni.state.gov/news2>
- 2) The Department of State Personnel Community on State Alumni,
<https://alumni.state.gov/dos/resources/funding>
- 3) The Alumni Association Resources Section on State Alumni at
<https://alumni.state.gov/associations>